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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 05629 081256Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06
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R 081235Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2641
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, BR, VE
SUBJ: VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO U.S.

1. THERE WAS EXTENSIVE BRAZILIAN PRESS ATTENTION DEVOTED TO PEREZ VISIT, EMPHASIZING PRESIDENT CARTER GREETING VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT AS "SPOKESMAN FOR THE THIRD WORLD." O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AND DIARIO COMERCIA AND INDUSTRIA JUNE 29 BACKGROUNDERS SAID "BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATS BELIEVE THAT PEREZ VISIT TO US PRACTICALLY FORMALIZES VENEZUELA AS COUNTRY-SPOKESMAN FOR CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN LATIN AMERICA. DIPLOMATS RECALLED THAT NEW US ADMINISTRATION'S PREFERENCE FOR VENEZUELA WAS MADE VERY CLEAR DURING ROSALYNN CARTER VISITIT TO VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. IN CARACAS, SHE WAS VERY EMPHATIC IN POINTING OUT PERFECT IDENTIFICATION BETWEEN HER COUNTRY AND VENEZUELA..." JORNAL DO BRASIL (JUNE 30) US CORRESPONDENT N.D. SPINOLA SAID "PEREZ ALIGNED HIMSELF ENTIRELY WITH USG PLATFORM ON HUMAN RIGHTS, STATING THAT CARTER'S WORDS ON THIS HIGHLY DELICATE ISSUE 'WILL SHAKE THE CRUMBLING FOUNDATIONS OF LATIN AMERICAN AUTHORITARIANISM.'"

2. JORNAL DO BRASIL EDITORIAL JUNE 30 SAID "IF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 05629 081256Z

BELIEVES HE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A TEMPORARY UNEASINESS IN BRASILIAN-WASHINGTON RELATIONS TO TRY TO STRENGTHEN HIS COUNTRY'S POSITION... HE IS MAKING A SERIOUS MISTAKE ... DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN BRAZIL AND US ARE OCCASIONAL, DO NOT COME FROM AN ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING WHICH IN NO WAY IS PART OF BRAZILIAN NATURE." CORREIO BRAZILIENSE, BRASILIA JUNE 30 EDITORIAL SAID, "LED BY IRRESISTIBLE MAGNETIC ATTRACTION

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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TO THAT POLE OF POWER REPRESENTED BY WASHINGTON, ALL LATIN
AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE (SOONER OR LATER) VISIT THE US ---
ONE THING, HOWEVER, THEY HAVE ALWAYS PRESERVED BEFORE AND
AFTER SUCH VISIT: TRADITIONAL SOLIDARITY AMONG DIFFERENT
MEMBERS OF THIS VAST COMMUNITY. BUT PRESIDENT PEREZ IS
AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE ... HE HAS EMBRACED PRESIDENT
CARTER AND BOTH BECAME A SINGLE VOICE IN TALKING ABOUT
NON-PROLIFERATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESIDENT PEREZ ONCE WAS
A NOISY VOICE SPEAKING OUT REGARDING LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRA-
TION. ...NOW HE HAS CHANGED COMPLETELY. ..." JORNAL DE
BRASILIA JUNE 30 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "QUESTIONABLE LEADERSHIP,"
SAYS : "VENEZUELA UNDENIABLY IS A POWERFUL NATION, ...
BUT TO INSTITUTE IT AS LEADER OF THE CONTINENT ...IS SOMETHING
THAT CAN ONLY COME FROM ILLUSION. ...VENEZUELA CANNOT BE
THE ONLY LEADER. ...TO RELEGATE BRAZIL TO A SECONDARY POSTION...
IS TO PUT THE INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE ON AN ARTIFICIAL PLANE. ...
OTHER POWERFUL NATIONS, LIKE ARGENTINA AND MEXICO, ALSO CANNOT
BE LEFT ASIDE IN MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT FUTURE OF THE
HEMISPHERE."

3. COMMENT. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT DEMONSTRABLE
SUCCESS OF PEREZ VISIT TOUCHED A SENSITIVE NERVE FOR BOTH BRAZILIAN
PRESS AND NEWS AWARE PUBLIC. SUSPINCION AMONG BRAZILIANS, AS
UNIVERSITY DEAN TOLD EMBOFF IN REFERENCE TO
PEREZ VISIT, IS THAT AMERICANS HAVE PICKED VENEZUELANS AS
TARGET FOR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IN LATIN AMERICA, IN
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CONTRAST TO WHAT BRAZILIANS SAW AS NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S
FOCUS ON BRAZIL.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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